



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Consumer
Service

Mountain
Plains
Region

1244 Speer Blvd., Suite 903
Denver, CO 80204-3585

MPCN-1

OCT 30 1996

Reply to
Attn. of: CACFP-483

Subject: State Agency (SA) Public (Media) Release on behalf of Child and
Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Institutions

To: STATE AGENCY DIRECTORS - Colorado DPHE, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri DH,
(Child Nutrition Programs) Montana DPHHS, Nebraska ED, North Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming

We would like to clarify the guidance on allowing SAs the option to make public releases for their institutions. Our guidance has been that if the SA makes the public media release, the institution does not need to publish an additional release.

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) eligibility guidance, FNS-274 - Eligibility Guidance for School Meals Manual, allows SAs the option of making public release statements on behalf of school food authorities (SFA). The language in this NSLP eligibility guidance further states that if the SA does volunteer to make the public release notification, it must be so noted in the free and reduced-price policy statement that is part of the SA-SFA agreement, and the policy statement must specify exactly what responsibilities the SA will assume. Those responsibilities could include sending the public release to the local media, employment office, etc., and identifying the names of the schools affected by this policy. This guidance would be applicable in the CACFP as well as the NSLP.

It must be emphasized that the public media release must contain the same information supplied in the letter or notice to households, except the public release must contain both the free and the reduced-price income eligibility guidelines, and copies of the public media release must be made available upon request to any interested person.

If the SA assumes this responsibility, the SA would be required to release the information to the media as specified in Section 226.23(d) which would include information on pricing and nonpricing programs, the names and addresses of the applicable institutions, as well as information that households currently certified to receive food stamps, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families "formerly AFDC" are automatically eligible to receive free meal benefits.

STATE AGENCY DIRECTORS

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If you need additional assistance, please contact my staff at (303) 844-0359.

Ann C. Degroat

for

ANN C. DEGROAT
Regional Director
Child Nutrition Programs